

According to a recent poll, over 40 percent of Americans believed that 9/11 hijackers were Iraqi. This followed more than a year of news coverage of that terrorist attack, and a half-year of coverage of Iraq as a focus of U. S. foreign policy. Clearly, the major news media failed to convey the basic facts by which citizens could evaluate the policies of their government. Those same facts were readily found in independently-owned newspapers, magazines, and radio stations. (I found exhaustive and lively coverage in The Christian Science Monitor and on WEOS FM radio, the latter a PBS affiliate operated by Hobart College. ) But such voices are barely heard beneath the blare of the major media, controlled increasingly by a few giant corporations. I oppose any regulatory change that might exacerbate such consolidated ownership. A democracy of the ignorant is no democracy at all.